

DECISION NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELATED

Key Executive Decision taken by an OFFICER

KEY DECISION

Delivery of the Damp and Condensation Service

DECISION TAKER:

Name: Richard Protheroe

Job Title: Strategic Director

Signature:

Date:

REASON WHY THIS DECISION DID NOT APPEAR ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE URGENCY PROVISIONS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:

This key decision/decision outside the Council's Budget and Policy Framework* was taken as part of the Council's emergency response to the national Coronavirus Emergency. Due to the necessary speed of decision taking at this time it was not possible to comply with the Council's Constitution that includes the requirement to give 28 days' notice of the decision to be taken; publish details 5 clear days before the decision was taken; publish the decision within 2 days of it being taken; and provide the 5 day call-in period before implementation. Nor was it possible to comply with the Urgency provisions in the Constitution

DECISION TAKEN:

The damp and condensation service will be reduced dealing with only essential / critical damp and condensation cases. The urgency and severity of each case will be risk assessed.

Definition of essential / critical:

- Risk to life and health. (Conditions that could lead to health problems particularly for people with pre - existing health concerns)
- Maintaining watertight structure – where this could result in building failure.
- Any defect that could result in an unsafe building or unsafe condition / environment to the household.

This reduced service involving site inspections and works will continue while the current restrictions are in place. This will be reviewed following receipt of any new / alternative advice.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

To ensure the safety of council staff and households while still being able to provide a reduced service that can deal with the emergency cases.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

Maintaining the full service was considered, however in line with the advice of not undertaking site visits unless absolutely necessary, the risk of reduced staff numbers and contractors ceasing operations, it was considered that a full service could not be maintained.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Expenditure will be temporarily reduced and backlog of cases will build up. These cases will be dealt with when restrictions are lifted incurring future expenditure against the approved budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Expenditure will be temporarily reduced and backlog of cases will build up. These cases will be dealt with when restrictions are lifted incurring future expenditure against the approved budget.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

There are no implications to Equality & Diversity as a result of the proposed changes.

CONSULTATIONS:

Consultation with members was carried out through the Group Leader Coronavirus Meeting, the leader and portfolio holder were also consulted and all were in agreement with the proposed temporary changes.

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I agree that this decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred.

I further agree that any delay likely to be caused by the call -in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest and that the decision should not therefore be subject to call-in.

Signed:

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date:

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION:

7 January 2021

